

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The office action dated May 15, 2003 has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 1, 10, and 16 are hereby amended and claims 21-43 have been withdrawn by virtue of the Restriction Requirement dated February 11, 2003. Accordingly, claims 1-43 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kim et al. (GB 2,343,012A) (hereinafter “Kim”). Claims 16-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kim in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,656,824 to Den Boer (hereinafter “Den Boer”).

The rejection of claims 1-15 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 1-9 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a common electrode on the second substrate; a dielectric frame on the common electrode on the second substrate to define a plurality of domains, at least a portion of the dielectric frame blocking light”. None of the cited references, including Kim, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 1 and claims 2-9, which depend from claim 1, are allowable over the cited references.

Similarly, claims 10-15 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a common electrode on the second substrate; a dielectric frame on the common electrode on the second substrate to define a

plurality of domains, at least a portion of the dielectric frame blocking light”. None of the cited references, including Kim, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 10 and claims 11-15, which depend from claim 10, are allowable over the cited references.

The rejection of claims 16-20 are traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 16-20 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, “a common electrode on the second substrate; a dielectric frame on the common electrode on the second substrate to define a plurality of domains, at least a portion of the dielectric frame blocking light”. None of the cited references, including Kim and Den Boer, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claim 16 and claims 17-20, which depend from claim 16, are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner deems that a telephone conversation would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (202) 496-7500.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the

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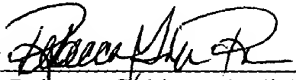
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filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 
Rebecca Goldman Rudich
Registration No.: 41,786

MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP
1900 K Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20006
(202) 624-1200



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